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NOV 20 2001

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of
Marcel F.C. Schemmann et al
Application No. 09/896,761
Filed: July 2, 2001
Attorney Docket No. US010310

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DECISION DISMISSING
PETITION

This is a decision on the letter filed September 20, 2001, requesting that the above-identified application be accorded a filing date of June 29, 2001, rather than the presently accorded filing date of July 2, 2001. The letter is accompanied by a copy of the original transmittal letter found in the file which includes a statement of express mailing date June 29, 2001. Accordingly, the letter is being construed as a petition under 37 CFR 1.10.

37 CFR 1.10(a) states that:

Any correspondence received by the Patent and Trademark Office (Office) that was delivered by the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the United States Postal Service (USPS) will be considered filed in the Office on the date of deposit with the USPS. The date of deposit with the USPS is shown by the "date-in" on the "Express Mail" mailing label or other official USPS notation. If the USPS deposit date cannot be determined, the correspondence will be accorded the Office receipt date as the filing date. See § 1.6(a).

37 CFR 1.10(c) states that:

(c) Any person filing correspondence under this section that was received by the Office and delivered by the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the USPS, who can show that there is a discrepancy between the filing date accorded by the Office to the correspondence and the date of deposit as shown by the "date-in" on the "Express Mail"

mailing label or other official USPS notation, may petition the Commissioner to accord the correspondence a filing date as of the "date-in" on the "Express Mail" mailing label or other official USPS notation, provided that:

- (1) The petition is filed promptly after the person becomes aware that the Office has accorded, or will accord, a filing date other than the USPS deposit date;
- (2) The number of the "Express Mail" mailing label was placed on the paper(s) or fee(s) that constitute the correspondence prior to the original mailing by "Express Mail;" and
- (3) The petition includes a true copy of the "Express Mail" mailing label showing the "date-in," and of any other official notation by the USPS relied upon to show the date of deposit.

As clearly stated in 37 CFR 1.10(a), the date of deposit with the United States Postal Service (USPS) is shown by the "date-in" on the "Express Mail" mailing label or other official USPS notation. Thus, any petition alleging that the PTO did not accord a paper the date of deposit in Express Mail service as the filing date must be accompanied by "a true copy of the 'Express Mail' mailing label showing the 'date-in,' and of any other official notation by the USPS relied upon to show the date of deposit." 37 CFR 1.10(c) (3).

The present petition is not accompanied by the evidence required by 37 CFR 1.10.

Accordingly, the petition is dismissed.

Any request for reconsideration of this decision should be filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the date of this decision in order to be considered timely (see 37 CFR 1.181(f)) and should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box DAC
Washington, D.C. 20231

By facsimile: (703) 308-6916
Attn: Office of Petitions

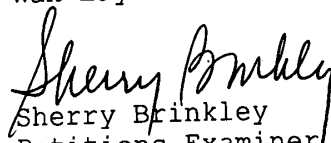
Application No. 09/896,761

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By hand: Office of Petitions
2201 South Clark Place
Crystal Plaza 4, Suite 3C23
Arlington, VA 22202

The application is being returned to Initial Patent Examination Division to await applicants' response to the Notice mailed August 22, 2001 with the presently accorded filing date of July 2, 2001.

Telephone inquiries specific to this matter should be directed to Wan Laymon at (703) 306-5685.


Sherry Brinkley
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy